

the only one holding a lottery ticket. And in addition, your lottery price was being decided by Rupert Murdoch and his publishing empire, a man who has extensive issues pending before Federal agencies.

This morning's Washington Post reported that many publishing companies refused to bid on the Speaker's book contract when Mr. Murdoch raised the offer into the millions of dollars.

The Republicans and Speaker GINGRICH have promised us new openness in dealing with the House of Representatives and politics in Washington. Let us start with openness and full disclosure on this multimillion dollar book deal. It is time for the Speaker to not only release the contract, but to come clean with the American people about all the circumstances surrounding it.

#### THE OSCE STATEMENT ON CHECHNYA

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, the Permanent Council of the OSCE has adopted a statement on Chechnya which emphasizes the seriousness of the violation of human rights and international humanitarian law that has characterized the Russian military action in Chechnya.

Affirming that respect for OSCE commitments is a legitimate concern of all signatory states, the OSCE has called for an immediate ceasefire and the beginning of negotiations for a political settlement, while respecting the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Speaker, the OSCE had welcomed Russia's stated willingness to cooperate with the OSCE in stabilizing the region and restoring constitutional order and in the early dispatch of an OSCE mission to that country. However, it now appears that the Russians may permit an OSCE peace mission only after the offensive has ceased. That is totally unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, any delay means more carnage, more dead civilians, more dead soldiers. The OSCE mission must be allowed immediate access to Chechnya, and this must be done with dispatch.

Mr. Speaker, for many days the administration has called this aggression an internal affair. Thankfully there has been a shift in the administration's position.

Next week as chairman of the Helsinki Commission, I plan to hold a hearing on this important matter, and hopefully we will see some progress then and now.

#### PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 5, UNFUNDED MANDATE RE- FORM ACT OF 1995

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight have until midnight tonight to file a report on H.R. 5, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EWING). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, at this time I do not intend to object, but under my reservation I would like to engage in a brief colloquy with my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER].

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The gentleman from Pennsylvania knows of the concern on our side of the aisle on this issue. The fact is that this issue, which is extremely important to this Nation, an issue that deals with questions like toxic waste, safe drinking water, clean water, child safety, all of these very important issues wrapped into this significant piece of legislation, was discussed and marked up on the same day as the committee was organizing, without a hearing, although one member of the gentleman's side of the aisle testified and none on our side was allowed to testify, but no hearings on this.

As I understand it, a large percentage of the gentleman's committee now are new Members who have had, frankly, no experience with this particular legislation in the past.

We on this side have very grave concerns about waiving the rules, as the gentleman is asking for on this legislation. Normally I believe he would be able to file on Tuesday. The gentleman wants to file it tonight.

While we understand the need to move on, we are concerned about the process here. We are concerned about: Is this going to be the norm? Is this going to be the standard on which we on this side of the aisle will have to live and have to react in terms of our ability to get our point of view across without hearings, without adequate preparation by the new Members who are on the committee?

I would like to ask the gentleman from Pennsylvania, first of all, if he intends to go to the Committee on Rules and ask for an open rule on this?

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CLINGER. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to inform the gentleman that it is my intention, and I believe it would be concurred in by the chairman of the Committee on Rules, to ask for a completely open rule, and I believe that it has already been signaled that that will be the case.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, continuing my reservation of objection, I yield to the gentleman from New York [Mr. SOLOMON]. Will the gentleman from New York, the chairman of the Committee on Rules, care to respond to whether or not we will see an open rule on this?

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I would be glad to respond to my good friend, a former member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. BONIOR. Still am a member.

Mr. SOLOMON. The gentleman has taken a leave of absence, I understand, out of the goodness of his heart.

Mr. BONIOR. The gentleman will see me in there.

Mr. SOLOMON. The gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. CLINGER], has requested of our Committee on Rules an open rule. It is the intention that we will grant an open rule.

We will hold that hearing at 11 on Wednesday, and the gentleman is welcome to come up and testify.

I might point out that we did hold a hearing on the subject of this bill. We did not limit it to just title III, which was our jurisdiction in the Committee on Rules. We allowed the full discussion on the entire bill. We offered the Democrat minority the opportunity for Members to come and testify, as well as the private sector. And the minority did produce three people to testify. It was a very informative meeting.

From that, we came to the decision we should put out an open rule and let the House work its will, because it is probably one of the most important bills that will come before this House during this 104th Congress, especially in the eyes of the taxpayers of this Nation.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I would say to my friend the gentleman from New York, that while there were no hearings in the primary committee that deals with this, Government Operations, the Committee on Rules allowed three people from the entire country to participate, that is all, in this process.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I will say to my good friend we absolutely did not limit it. The gentleman was welcomed to have 5 or 10 witnesses, including Members of Congress, and the only panel that was asked for was the three from the private sector. It was completely open to as many as the gentleman would have desired.

Mr. BONIOR. Further reserving the right to object, Mr. Speaker, I would yield to another former member of the Committee on Rules, one of our strong advocates for the issues which I enumerated earlier on for discussion of this issue, and gentlewoman from New York [Ms. SLAUGHTER].

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.